



Montana Chapter

April 15, 2015

RE: Testimony in support of HJ 30

To the Esteemed Members of the House Human Services Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in favor of **HJ 30**, requesting an interim study of the needs of and services available to individuals with dementia in Montana.

An estimated 5.3 million Americans of all ages are living with Alzheimer's disease. This includes an estimated 5 million people age 65 and older, and approximately 200,000 individuals under age 65 who have younger-onset Alzheimer's. Alzheimer's is no longer just an aging issue - prevalence of younger-onset Alzheimer's, with folks being diagnosed in their 40s, is growing rapidly.

It is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States and is the only cause of death among the top 10 that cannot be prevented, cured, or even slowed. With Alzheimer's disease, it is not just those with the disease who suffer. It is also their caregivers – a job that usually falls on family and friends. In Montana nearly 48,000 family caregivers provide 55 million hours of unpaid care, valued at \$668 million dollars, to the 19,000 individuals living with the disease, costing \$29 million in higher health costs of caregivers. This disease has a profound effect on the family caregivers who often suffer their own health crises as a direct result of the stress related to providing Alzheimer's care.

The New England Journal of Medicine released a study in 2013 that determined that Alzheimer's disease is the **most expensive disease in America**. The average per person Medicaid spending for seniors with Alzheimer's and other dementias is, on average, 19 times higher than the average across all other seniors.

Alzheimer's disease is a growing public health crisis. Age is the greatest known risk factor for Alzheimer's and one in nine Americans over the age of

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65 will develop the disease. As the baby boom generation continues to age, more Montanans will be affected by this disease either as individuals living with the disease or as caregivers.

Not only is Montana not prepared to deal with the 19,000 people we have right now - we are definitely not prepared for the 42% increase of individuals living with the disease that we are projected to see in the next 10 years.

To address this issue, the Alzheimer's Association, Big Sky Senior Services, and the Billings Clinic Center for Translational Research joined together in early 2014 to lay groundwork for developing an Alzheimer's/Dementia State Plan. We secured funding from the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) to hire a facilitator and assemble an Alzheimer's/Dementia Work Group, with participation from all of the key stakeholders in the state including the Department of Health's Division of Aging, researchers, healthcare providers, caregivers, advocacy groups and community leaders.

In order to develop with a comprehensive and effective plan, we must identify the gaps in care. The timing of the introduction of this bill and potential establishment of an interim study committee on dementia is ideal, as this will allow us to better work together toward a common goal.

Over the last year the Work Group, has been in the process of conducting a needs assessment. In May and June we will host eight town hall meetings across Montana which will serve as public input sessions. We would like to invite our legislators to be partners in this process by being present to hear firsthand the feedback of citizens from frontier, rural and urban counties. Following the completion of the needs assessment, our projected deadline for publication of the Alzheimer's/Dementia State Plan is December 31, 2015.

Even without a way to cure, slow, or effectively treat Alzheimer's disease, there are ways to improve the quality of life for those living with the disease and to decrease associated costs. The Alzheimer's Association and the entirety of the Montana Alzheimer's/Dementia Work Group stands in the ready to work with you and is committed to developing and implementing an Alzheimer's/Dementia State Plan, to address the effects of this devastating disease.

We must start looking at Alzheimer's and dementia for what it really is - a public health crisis.

Please support HJ 30, establish an interim study committee on dementia, and work with us to implement a comprehensive state plan. Please help us make Montana a dementia-capable state and carry out our ultimate vision of a world without Alzheimer's. We are counting on you.

Sincerely,

Heidi Gibson

Heidi Gibson, State Director

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State Alzheimer's Work Group **110 members as of January 2015*

Alliance Yellowstone Cnty

Areas on Aging I-XI

AARP

Aging Services Bureau

AHEC

Alternative Care Service

Alzheimer's Association

Benefis Health System

Big Sky Senior Services

Billings Clinic

Bozeman Senior Center

Caregivers

Carroll College

Clark Fork Valley Hospital

DPHHS/Senior Long Term Care

Eagleview West

Edgewood Vista

Health Resources Division

Hunter's Glen

Immanuel Lutheran Communities

Legislators & Lobbyists

Highgate Senior Living

McLaughlin Research Institute

Mental Health America

MT Hospital Association

MT Public Safety Officer Training
and Council

MPHHS

Mountain Pacific Quality Life

MT Geriatric Education Center

MSU Extension

MT State University Nursing

Office of the Governor

Ombudsman

Patient Advocates

Physicians (Gerontology,
Neurology, Psychiatry)

Pride Foundation

SEUI

Rocky Mtn Laboratories

Ruby Valley Medical

Spring Creek Inn

St. John's Lutheran Home

St. Peter's Behavior Health Unit

Veteran's Administration

St. Vincent's Healthcare

Synergy

University of Montana



Year	# of Caregivers	Total Hours of Unpaid Care	Total Value of Unpaid Care	Higher Health Costs of Caregivers
2014	48,000	55,000,000	\$668,000,000	\$29,000,000
2013	48,000	54,000,000	\$677,000,000	\$28,000,000
2012	47,000	54,000,000	\$663,000,000	\$27,000,000



Number of Alzheimer's and dementia caregivers, hours of unpaid care, and value of unpaid care

* 6th leading cause of death in Montana

267



Year	65-74	75-84	85+	TOTAL
2015	2,600	7,000	8,200	19,000
2020	3,500	9,000	9,000	22,000
2025	4,200	12,000	10,000	27,000

Percentage change from 2015: 42.1% (Total), 15.8% (65-74)



Over 5 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's, and as many as 16 million will have the disease in 2050. The cost of caring for those with Alzheimer's and other dementias is estimated to total \$226 billion in 2015, increasing to \$1.1 trillion (in today's dollars) by mid-century. Nearly one in every three seniors who dies each year has Alzheimer's or another dementia.



e-services

Alzheimer's disease is a national health epidemic that cannot be ignored — particularly in the workplace, where an increasing number of employees are balancing career responsibilities with the challenges of caring for a person with the disease. Research shows that caring for someone with Alzheimer's negatively affects an individual's health, employment and financial security. Companies can help ease the burden of caregiving by providing easy access to experts, information and products and services for the struggling working caregiver.

The Alzheimer's Association provides support and resources for employees going through one of the most difficult periods of their lives. Visit us at alz.org/montana or call our 24/7 Helpline at 800.272.3900 to request education materials, workshops or to find local support groups.



you are not alone.
get connected to share concerns and advice.
alzconnected.org

FREE

ALZConnected®, powered by the Alzheimer's Association, is an online social networking community designed specifically for people with Alzheimer's disease and their caregivers. Members can connect and communicate with people who understand their unique challenges. They can pose questions and offer solutions to dementia-related issues, create public and private groups organized around a dedicated topic and contribute to message boards.

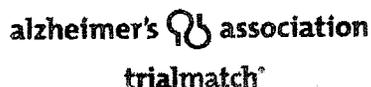


Alzheimer's disease creates questions.
we can guide you to answers.
alz.org/alzheimersnavigator

FREE

Alzheimer's Navigator™ is an innovative online tool designed specifically for individuals with Alzheimer's, their families and caregivers to navigate through the disease. A diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease raises many questions. Alzheimer's Navigator helps guide you to answers by creating a customized action plan and linking to information, support and local resources. Depending on the needs of the user, specific action steps are created for the following areas:

- Planning for the future
- Working with doctors/healthcare professionals
- Caregiver support
- Activities of daily living
- Home safety
- Driving
- Knowledge of dementia



don't just hope for a cure. help us find one.
alz.org/trialmatch

FREE

More than 130 research studies pertaining to Alzheimer's disease and other dementias are under way and recruiting volunteers. Alzheimer's Association TrialMatch® will help you find the right one; there is no cost and it is easy to use. Volunteering for a clinical trial is one of the most immediate ways to make a difference that will impact generations to come. Get started today. Call 800.272.3900 or visit alz.org/trialmatch.

our vision is a world without alzheimer's®

The Alzheimer's Association is the world's leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support and research. Our mission is to eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health.

we're here to help. we have a 24/7 helpline staffed with professional clinicians and local chapters providing services in communities nationwide.

alzheimer's® association
Montana Chapter
24/7 Helpline 800-272-3900
www.alz.org/montana

Alzheimer's is a progressive disease where the person will require increasing levels of care as time goes on. Being educated about what to expect and learning about useful care strategies can significantly impact the quality of life for the caregiver and the person living with Alzheimer's. The Alzheimer's Association offers a series of education workshops available in communities nationwide and online. Take advantage of the free e-learning courses:

- Know the 10 Signs: Early Detection Matters
- The Basics: Memory Loss, Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease
- Legal and Financial Planning for Alzheimer's Disease
- Living with Alzheimer's for People with Alzheimer's
- Living with Alzheimer's: For Caregivers (Early, Middle and Late Stage)

KNOW the 10 SIGNS EARLY DETECTION MATTERS

e-learning courses are available 24/7 to accommodate your busy schedule.
alz.org/elearning

alzheimer's® association

FREE

Alzheimer's Association Comfort Zone®, powered by Omnilink®, is a comprehensive Web-based location management service allowing families to remotely monitor a person with Alzheimer's, set up safety zones and receive an alert when a person has traveled beyond a pre-set zone. All monthly plans include a membership in the Medic Alert® + Alzheimer's Association Safe Return® program and receive an emergency health record along with access to a 24/7 helpline for wandering and medical emergencies.

Comfort Zone Check-in® is also available as a simplified, self-service program to check in to find someone and receive a daily automated scheduled location alert.

have some peace of mind while providing freedom and independence to those living with alzheimer's.
alz.org/comfortzone

comfort zone
alzheimer's® association

FROM \$9.99/MONTH